development and perinatal adaptation, make the title even less appropriate than in previous editions. It is in fact a good guide to modern paediatrics, with proper emphasis on the normal as well as the sick child. Some diseases such as lukaemia are dealt with in disappointingly superficial fashion, while others (such as rheumatic fever, congenital syphilis and tuberculosis) which are relatively rare in modern practice are treated at disproportionate length; but perhaps this may be partly explained by the authors' evident intention to present a view of their subject which is not limited to the United Kingdom. The chapter on disease of children in the tropics is useful as an introduction for British medical students but would not suffice as a practical guide to diagnosis and treatment. The book is well produced and pleasant to handle, and its price is perhaps not unreasonable by current standards. Students and general practitioners who obtain it as their basic paediatric text should be well satisfied.

J.A.D.

CLINICAL CHEMISTRY FOR THE SMALL HOSPITAL LABORATORY. By Moira D. Reynolds. (Pp. x+197; figs. 37. $9.75). Springfihill, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1969.

This well produced book is based on the practice in the Porter Hospital in Vermont which is a 48 bed general hospital providing some outpatient facilities. It is surprising in these days of highly sophisticated biochemical laboratories to find that there are laboratories in a country such as the U.S.A. which function at this level. Perhaps the best commentary on the level at which it functions is that the statement is made that the preparation of reagents is often beyond the competence of the technicians, and that "the effect of the pathology on the blood level of the various biochemical constituents is beyond the ken of the biochemists." Such statements are perhaps explained when one reads the instructions for using a pipette which would not be out of place in a junior school science handbook.

The methods described are in general standard methods, most of them in use for many years in laboratories throughout the world. It is surprising to find the chemical determination of sodium and potassium still suggested as a possibility and in a laboratory such as this, where the small workload makes quality control of performance perhaps even more important. Far too much reliance seems to be placed on the validity of the ascribed values for commercial quality control sera; indeed their use as standards in biochemical tests is by implication approved.

Current trends in the National Health Service with the proposal to move towards larger hospitals and laboratory units, make it increasingly unlikely that a book such as this will have any contribution to make to biochemists and technicians in the United Kingdom.

D.W.N.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS by J. H. D. Millar. (Pp xvii+98; figs. 6. $7.50). Springfield, Ill.: Thomas, 1971.

Dr. Millar has had a vast experience, both clinically and experimentally in the field of neurology and this is amply illustrated in this book. He traces the disease from early childhood, through the maze of progressive combinations and the onset of advancing complications. Besides being the most common organic disease of the nervous system it constitutes one of the most baffling enigmas of modern medicine. So little is known about the disease that Dr. Millar's comprehensive survey of all its aspects is a welcome addition to our scanty knowledge of it. He has presented the whole process of diagnosis, epidemiology, aetiology and treatment in a concise and clear manner. In this book he has clarified for us all not only these aspects of the disease but also the vast amount of research that is being carried out throughout the world, including Northern Ireland. He has brought hope and encouragement to many that some time in the future the veil may be lifted on the mystery of this most baffling and crippling of diseases. This is a sound, comprehensive work of value to all physicians, and a "must" in any medical library.

W.J.